



## MARY ROSE GARRIDO WILCOX SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 5

### Featured Story

#### Maricopa County Gets 'A' on Report Card

Maricopa County does 'A' work! Governing Magazine recently reviewed 40 of the nation's largest counties. Two of the counties were graded with an 'A-' overall, the highest score allotted and Maricopa County was one of them.

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### Press Releases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING INCLUDED IN MARICOPA COUNTY 'EYE TO THE FUTURE 2020' PLAN

(PHOENIX, August 23)—Clusters of affordable housing will no longer be found only in the poorest areas of Maricopa County. The Board of Supervisors has voted unanimously to include affordable housing in the Land Use element of the Maricopa County "Eye to the Future" Comprehensive Plan, making Maricopa County the only governmental entity to include affordable housing within its general plan.

"Because of my concern for people getting into homes, I thought it was imperative to incorporate the affordable housing component into the overall general plan," said Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox. "Maricopa County has set a precedent and we encourage other governmental entities to do the same."

"We commend Supervisor Wilcox and the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors for including an affordable housing element in the Comprehensive Plan," stated Spencer Kamps, Deputy Director for the Home Builder Association of Central Arizona. "We have always recognized the need for affordable housing in the Valley as one of the most important issues facing our community, even more so today. We appreciate the efforts of Supervisor Wilcox and the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors in recognizing this critical need in their planning process."

For more than one year, Supervisor Wilcox has been striving to make affordable housing the general rule when planning for development. Now, homes at affordable rates will be available throughout the County. "We don't want to wall off communities from each other. The way the plan was set up before, inclusion was inevitable. With this adoption, we can prevent developers from violating fair housing policies," Supervisor Wilcox said.

The approved amendment, which must follow the Growing Smarter and Growing Smarter Plus regulations requires new developments to include affordable housing in their master plans. It also makes it easier to add affordable housing to other phases of existing developments.

Joy Rich, director of planning and zoning for Maricopa County, said, "The Planning and Development Department is grateful to the many affordable housing experts who participated in this effort and who share their ideas and knowledge about this important issue."

An affordable housing report was compiled and included in the comprehensive plan. Many issues affecting housing affordability were identified, including: household income, housing market demand, local job market interest rates and finance opportunities, building materials and labor costs, housing (type) availability, public attitudes regarding affordable housing, local land use and zoning practices, and regulatory barriers and incentives.